

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-6, 24-34, 36 and 38 are pending in the present application. Claims 36 and 38 have been amended.

In the Advisory Action dated February 12, 2004, the Examiner has alleged that claims 36 and 38 do not further limit the claims from which they depend. The Examiner has suggested amendment of claims 36 and 38 to respectively feature a silicon layer thickness of 50-70 nm.

Claim 24 as pending features a thickness of the silicon region is in a range of 50-100 nm. Previously pending claim 36 as dependent upon claim 24, further features that the thickness of the silicon region is less than 70 nm. Applicant respectfully submits that previously pending claim 36 thus further limits claim 24, because the recited range is effectively narrowed to one less than 70 nm.

Although Applicant does not necessarily concede that amendment of previously pending claim 36 is necessary, claim 36 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to feature that the silicon region is "in a range of 50-70 nm". Claim 38, as dependent upon claim 30, has been amended in a somewhat similar manner.

**Conclusion**

Favorable consideration and entry of this amendment are earnestly solicited, to place the present application in better form for appeal.

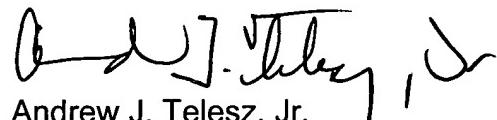
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of two (2) months to February 29, 2004, for the period in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$420.00 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, P.L.L.C.

  
Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.  
Registration No. 33,581

AJT:dmc

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, P.L.L.C.  
12200 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 150  
Reston, Virginia 20191  
Telephone No.: (703) 715-0870  
Facsimile No.: (703) 715-0877